Amendments to the Specification

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(1)   Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 8 and replace as

follows:

The pluggable service delivery platform shown in FIG. 1 comprises three parts,

Device Abstraction Layer (DAL), Service Abstraction Layer (SAL) and Kernel Service

Engine. FIG. 1 focuses on components of a platform kernel. The details of SAL and DAL

will be illustrated in FIG. 4 and FIG. 5 respectively. As shown in FIG. 1, the platform

kernel comprises a service engine **101,** a runtime monitor **102,** a profile manager 103 and

auxiliary components **104** (such as a <u>security manager</u>~~billing manager~~) **104a,** <u>a billing</u>

<u>manager</u>~~security manager~~ **104b,** etc). As shown in FIG. 1, XML is used within the

platform as an interface language. XML is used widely in the platform to exchange

information between different components in the platform. XML is also used in the DAL

and SAL, such that information processed in the platform will be based on XML. For the

service engine, both a synchronized service engine and an asynchronized service engine

are provided. <u>The service engine supports synchronized communications by session as well as</u>

<u>synchronized communications by queue.</u> For example, the synchronized service engine can

be based on IBM WebSphere which is a Web application server and has strong XML

support.

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